

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1739V

Filed: October 13, 2021

UNPUBLISHED

HENRIETTA LARUE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Master Horner

Petitioner's Motion for Decision
Dismissing Petition; Influenza
(flu) vaccine; SIRVA

Emily Beth Ashe, Anapol Weiss, Philadelphia, PA, for petitioner.

Emilie Williams, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION¹

On November 8, 2019, petitioner filed a claim under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10-34 (2012), alleging that she suffered right shoulder injuries after receiving an influenza vaccination on August 24, 2017. (ECF No. 1.) On July 7, 2021, respondent filed his Rule 4 report, recommending against compensation. (ECF No. 37.) On September 9, 2021, I held a status conference where I discussed several critical issues affecting petitioner's claim.

On October 11, 2021, petitioner filed a Motion for a Decision Dismissing her Petition. (ECF No. 42.) Petitioner indicated that "[a]fter . . . a further examination of the facts supporting her case, Petitioner has determined that she will be unable to prove that she is entitled to compensation in the Vaccine Program," and that "has thus agreed to not proceed further with this claim." (*Id.* at 2.) Petitioner further stated that she "understands that a decision by the Special Master dismissing her petition will result in a

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, it will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. See 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the Internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, it will be redacted from public access.

judgment against her. She has been advised that such a judgment will end all of her rights in the Vaccine Program.” (*Id.* at 2.)

To receive compensation in the Vaccine Program, petitioner must prove either (1) that she suffered a “Table Injury” – *i.e.*, an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to a covered vaccine, or (2) that she suffered an injury that was actually caused by a covered vaccine. See §§ 13(a)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1). To satisfy her burden of proving causation in fact, petitioner must show by preponderant evidence: “(1) a medical theory causally connecting the vaccination and the injury; (2) a logical sequence of cause and effect showing that the vaccination was the reason for the injury; and (3) a showing of a proximate temporal relationship between vaccination and injury.” *Althen v. Sec’y of Health & Human Servs.*, 418 F.3d 1274, 1278 (Fed. Cir. 2005). The Vaccine Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-13(a)(1), prohibits the undersigned from ruling for petitioner based solely on her allegations unsubstantiated by medical records or medical opinion.

Petitioner’s medical records do not support her allegations by a preponderance of the evidence and she did not file a medical opinion from an expert in support of her allegations. Accordingly, the undersigned **GRANTS** petitioner’s Motion for Decision Dismissing Petition and **DISMISSES** this petition for failure to establish a *prima facie* case of entitlement to compensation.

CONCLUSION

This case is now **DISMISSED**. The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Daniel T. Horner
Daniel T. Horner
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party, either separately or jointly, filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.